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California GARDEN

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SEPTEMBER
1941

Fortify Against Heat
Jack W. Brem

Flower Show Review
Ada Perry

The Bird Parade
Frank F. Gander

Problems of the Soil
Rob't R. McLean

Gleanings
Ida Louise Bryant

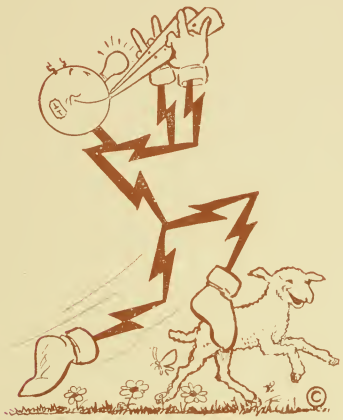
Roses in Heat
N. S. Gardener

AFTERNOON OF A GARDENER

O, how lustily now
the garden
Sings me thanks
for morning's toil!
Offering guerdon rich,
and haven,
From this noise
and world turmoil.

Anna G. Matson.
Santa Monica.

Enjoy Your Garden More



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Fortify Against Heat . . . .

By JACK W. BREM

Gardeners everywhere in California can benefit by experiences that come to high focus in the desert. Here plants and people are put to the extreme test of endurance and they must adapt if they survive. In the desert, lack of sufficient water for even a day means sudden death to all but native plants. Therefore, sufficient and continuing moisture is coming to be considered as important or more so than any one factor. Contrary to this fact, most desert gardeners, upon losing a shrub or tree exclaim, "Eucalpytus (or whatever has just died) is not suited to the desert; it can not stand the terrific heat." Right they are. A plant will die if it has no water. Animal life will do as much; it will burn up in the sun. On the seashore the same is true, but it is a slow death. In the desert the sun is quick to draw up that last vestige of moisture and tragedy is sudden and sure in its course.

Proper watering allows the use of hundreds of the finest shrubs and trees in Imperial Valley, or any other interior valley, places that are about as hot as any in which you would care to grow a garden. Species of ferns, begonias, lilies, violets, toyon, lilac, gardenias, camellias, stephanotis, philodendron, and many other fine plants of distinction normally associated with more humid climates, are grown in the desert. The trend is away from Palo-verdi, cacti and mesquite, which may not be altogether desirable, but nevertheless is happening.

Why has there been this change from natives to the rarer exotics? It is because the secret to success has been found—"Water and How to Water." The water, method of irrigation and mulch are indicated as the success factors. By "method" is meant, sprinkling, the use of basins, major furrowing or sub-irrigation. Sprinkling, except for the lawns and lawn substitutes, should be absolutely unheard of in an arid country, and only less so nearer the coast. Basining is little better. The furrow method gets results; makes gardening easier for a given result besides reducing the time required to water. An improvement on the furrow method is to dig a trench twelve inches deep and install three-inch concrete porous tile, which makes an underground irrigation system, called sub-irrigation. This method prevents 90 per cent of the loss on water, and in time should thereby return in dollars the initial cost, leaving a vast percentum of profit in flowers and the satisfaction of thriving plants. Most everyone has seen the furrow or ditch system used in orchards and truck gardens, but few will think to apply the idea to their own garden. One recognizes the furrow system by the many little rivulets flowing through a field parallel to one another and only a foot or so apart. In the garden one will seldom have the chance to make straight furrows, but will have to dig a little ditch that lazily meanders along from one point to another. Sometimes a single unbroken furrow will travel a hundred feet or more through the garden. The longer the furrow and the longer one lets the water run in it, the better, and the deeper the water will soak. Remember only, that enough of a good thing is sufficient and that all soils and almost every plant will want a time before the next irrigation to come back to normal functioning. Oxygen forced out by this thorough soaking must be allowed to drift back in between soil particles, and by all means consider the myriad soil organisms that give it life—they must live too.

In repetition for every essential emphasis, watering in a long furrow for a reasonable time means deep penetration, and roots go where there is moisture. Sprinkling develops surface roots. Winds and heat will dry the surface three to eight inches of soil in a few hours, but has relatively little drawing power from below that level. Moisture below eight inches remains to be used by plants. This being the case, the value of deep penetration is obvious; it assures a poppy, pyracantha or a carob tree the ability to withstand hot drying days.

Different types of soil require varying periods for water to soak to desired levels. Water penetrates quickly to a depth of six feet in sandy soil, but requires as much as

forty-eight hours to reach that depth in clay, and it will survive there a correspondingly longer time as a reservoir.

All of this seems so simple and yet after carefully explaining to a client the nurseryman very frequently receives this type of phone call:

"Mr. So and So, the shrubs I purchased from you a few weeks ago look very much indisposed. They are sick and I know I took good care of them. I fertilized them last week and have watered every day, so I am sure there was something wrong with the plants. Will you come out and look at them? Two have died and I don't care to lose the rest."

After looking them over it is concluded her plants are dying from lack of water. How can Mrs. A be impressed with this thought without hurting her feelings, since she has watered every day. Well, here goes: "Mrs. A, will you explain just how you water and how long it takes?"

She replies, in full confidence, "It takes about ten minutes each evening to sprinkle the plants and fill the little basins around them; you should see them freshen up right while I am standing here watering."

"Mrs. A, it is very difficult to explain to anyone how much water is required to penetrate five or six feet deep, but you must understand it is necessary to penetrate the ground to some depth in order to be sure your shrubs are not going to suffer from lack of water while you are at the grocers. When your gardener comes again it will require just one-half hour to dig a small neat trench in front of these plants, from one to another. Irrigation will then become a matter of letting a small stream of water run for twenty-four hours once every week or so, depending on the soil and the season. This will soak the ground deeply and make the plants grow rapidly."

"I know Mr. So, that was so. You told me all that when I purchased the plants and I thought sprinkling them every day would surely give

(Continued on Page 8)

Flower Show Review

By ADA PERRY

There is nothing like a little sin to renew one's interest in positive things . . . some moralizing, or better say psychology—could be done at this point but there's really no object here. . . . I'm merely referring to my original sin of forgetting to plug the San Diego Fall Flower Show a week previous on my "Garden Beautiful" program over KGB Sunday at 12:30. . . . My sin appalled me, so I flew down to the show (via street car) the next Sunday morning at an early hour when busy officials were pepping up exhibits and allowed them to trip over me while gathering notes for a review of the show on the air an hour later. . . . Gave my whole time, except for our garden quiz stunt, to the show and the listeners seemed pleased and I was called up and patted on the back, which of course I love. . . . So the error was not fatal but I don't believe I'd care to repeat it intentionally, consequently you need not take my opening statement too seriously. . . . You wouldn't anyway. . . . Readers of this magazine are not the kind to be easily led astray.

Hope you found the exhibits as fresh as I did and I rather think so. . . . Never saw finer flowers. . . . Was so glad that faithful commercial exhibitor got third time and the cup. . . . You notice he always has a summer lily to show us? . . . This time it was rubrums which I am pleased to designate as the white, ruby spotted, tiger lily. . . . Very cumbersome but definite to the uninitiated. . . . A fine women's club exhibit had a whole border of blue streptocarpus, or Cape Primrose, and grown by one of same club women. . . . That club is lucky to have her and I bet they know it! . . . (S'all right, we've met and are friends). . . . There were lovely individual exhibits of summer flowers in this show—day lilies, crepe myrtle, Queen Anne's lace, turkey-red Crassula falcata, delphiniums, hardy orchids, sunshine asters, marigolds. . . . I'd better say right here that "summer stars," the dahlias, zinnias, and tuberous begonias, were grand as all get-out; the tuberous begonias being as large as the zinnias and the zinnias as large as the dahlias, and the dahlias but big—Merely discount that statement at the usual employees' rate and you have approximately the truth. . . .

I want to feature right here the pan-American exhibit, a good idea that's taking hold like Patrick Henry by the way, and the flower show pan-American emblem was begonias . . . Species begonias setting on the table and ribbons connecting them to their birthplaces on a South American map on the wall above. . . . By and large, all the begonias in the United States are no small measure of good neighobrs. . . .

Going back to the dahlias, and we did, that banker is still dahlia-conscious and so is the Dahlia Society. . . . Their exhibits were pre-eminent. . . . And so were the contributions of the others. . . . I think it simply "Ripley" that the best dahlia in the show and the biggest dahlia were seedlings. . . .

We need space for the tables and picture boxes. . . . Understand an antique glass champion was table chairman this year and there certainly were some gorgeous goblets and frostly compotes. . . . Maybe you think this isn't flowers but what woman thinks of tableware without flowers. And there was a "lazy Susan," too, I think. . . . Loved the dwarf dahlia bouquet with anise blooms as filler, and the dwarf dahlias with the chartreuse and brown dishes, and the phlox and grey dishes, and the maroon dahlias and tablecloth, the dahlias with silver filler or statice and the cloth with a silver figure. . . In fact, I loved them all, but girls, I wail with a final discouraged breath, when are you going to put the history and names of your tableware on a card on the table and not TORTURE other women who would like to know about them. . . . I did ask a chairman to examine one for me and she obliged like a thoroughbred, but after all she wasn't elected for a dish-lifter. . . .

Speaking of the picture boxes. I did not have time to fully worship

at their shrine nor at the shrine of the arrangements, either. . . . But among the boxes there was our usual magnolia, unusually large and perfect and super-posed. . . . And the wooden shoe filled with Mexican primroses intrigued me. . . . I stood off and looked longingly at the arrangements and then flapped eagerly over to one which beckoned. . . . And do you know, it was 'that woman' again who had snared me. . . . I fall for her arrangements like a tone of brick. . . . Well, didn't you like that dear old Chinaman with hen and chickens 'round his feet and clouds of dandelion seed balls around his head? . . .

That huge bank of maidenhair in the middle of the show room was a refreshing place. It and its 'cloud' of huge pink hydrangeas. . . . There may be some exhibits left out of this review due to the human limitations of the reviewer, but you may know the public saw them in this full flowering of summer. . . .

Ada Perry.

August Meeting

At the monthly meeting of the San Diego Floral Association, Mrs. Mary A. Greer, president, gave a resume of the annual Fall Flower Show, and expressed most estimable praise of the co--operation of all persons who took part, of the favorable weather, of the large attendance, and of it being the finest of all Fall Shows by the Association. That proves its value for the community educationally and artistically. Mrs. Greer announced that at the regular meeting in October, she has secured Mr. Chas. Gibbs Adams, "A genius with a merry wit," as quoted by the Association, after he had been a guest speaker at a meeting three years previously. Also, in October, there will be held a Chrysanthemum show in the Floral building, Balboa Park.

An impromptu prefatory was led by Mr. Arthur Shoven while the audience waited for the arrival of Mr. Silas Osborn, the speaker for the evening—who was unavoidably delayed. "Vacation Trips" was in-

(Continued on Page 8)

The Bird Parade Ends . . .

By FRANK FORREST GANDER

Among those who have been following the Bird Parade through the last sixteen issues of this magazine, not all will be content to know only those birds which frequent their gardens. Some of these readers will also wish to become acquainted with the birds which they see on the ocean beach, along the highways, and in our mountains. For such folks, I must heartily recommend a small book published this year—"A Field Guide to Western Birds," by Roger Tory Peterson.

With the aid of this book, anyone may easily learn to recognize most of our birds. The many illustrations in color and in black-and-white emphasize those particular stripes, bands, and patches of color characteristic of each species. Also, all kinds so similar to each other that they might be confused are placed side by side to make comparisons easy. No other book is as helpful in identifying birds seen afield.

Excellent as this book is for helping one to recognize our many kinds of wild birds, yet it makes no pretense of telling much about the lives of these creatures. Those who would read more about their avian neighbors should consult the monumental "Birds of California," by William Leon Dawson. No more expressive and beautiful prose is to be found than that employed in these volumes.

Other books on western birds that are helpful and interesting are "Handbook of Birds of the Western United States," by Florence Merriam Bailey; "Birds of the Pacific States," by Ralph Hoffman, and "Fieldbook of Birds of the Southwestern United States," by Wyman and Burnell.

Frank Forrest Gander,
Natural History Museum.

The Bird Parade has come to an end and a delightful series of sketches is complete so far as the California Garden is concerned. Readers will be glad to know that they will be broadened and with certain additions as to material, together with illustrations, go into book form. We are very grateful for them and, having had them, know we are better gardeners since the very art consists largely in the appreciation of the living things that go to make up our composition. The garden is more than an effect to stir the imagination—it is a condition and the state of our very being will be tempered by this place.

The matter of movement and song—the living of birds in the garden is only hazily appreciated. Frank Gander is a pioneer in the bringing together of the two. We know this new book will further this functional aspect of the garden and trust that it will be well received.

R. S. H.

This is Propaganda

By Roland Hoyt

Few people are thinking at this time of next Christmas and the meaning of the day is more or less submerged by harsher thoughts born of the cataclysm spreading out before us. Here is a little book for a child, bright, airy, fresh . . . stuffiness dissipated and the shirt on the line.

Some of us have grown up in this world without the gentling influence of flowers and growing plants which is inclined to work havoc with some of the meaner thoughts of adulthood. Dr. Goebells can take the plastic mind of a child and mould it with words and examples until it becomes a natural carriage for the indecent thoughts and unsound theories he wishes to forward.

Of course democracies are less to the point in these matters. Therein lies their strength and also a weakness. The democratic thought is opposed to undue influence, preferring rather that these young minds come along of themselves and

(Continued on Page 9)

COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it it gossip, call it prattle—
But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—
This garden game!

EXCHANGE

It seems strange to me that one can ever find a copy of an exchange magazine on the library shelves, because I enjoy them so much myself. It occurs to me that the garden fans have failed to discover two things; first, that the articles are most helpful to us because they are published in California, the South and Southeast, where the problems and vegetation are similar to ours; second, that there are always several complete studies of plant species in each number which are just as good a month, or any time later, as when they were issued.

To illustrate, in TREES for May-June, which is published in Santa Monica, there is an article on derris root, a new insecticide, explaining its discovery as a substitute for the poisonous arsenic sprays in general use ten years ago. Now imported from the Dutch East Indies and Malay States, it is powdered and distributed as a material that is safe on foliage, will not spot house or automobile paint and will kill many varieties of both sucking and chewing insects. Most of us know one of its components, rotenone. There is another article for those who like to mix their own sprays, giving the proper solution for controlling lace bug, red spider, and scale. Supt. Broell, of Presidio Park, tells about the Serra Palm in Old Town. There is a beautiful photograph that goes with the story of the saving of the redwoods, called "The Avenue of the Giants."

LET US HEAR

Mr. A. W. Roberts, secretary of The Southern California Horticultural Institute, announces the change of location of its office to 4541 Lomita Street, Los Angeles, Calif. Telephone Webster 8359. It is probable that few people this far south will know this organization, what it stands for, its aspirations and what it has accomplished. The list of officers and directors is impressive, beginning with Hugh Evans and ending with Roy F. Wilcox. Among those names in between may be found Jess Watt, W. D. Fraser, Murray McNeil, Richard Wescott. Any of these gentlemen could do a good job of telling all about the association and it is hoped this may come to the attention of the right one.

R.S.H.

VIRGIN SOIL

Some years back we were demonstrating the development of California. You know—first the Indians, then the Spaniards, the gold-diggers, and finally the real estate men. A very young and attractive girl in a loud-checkered suit and cap took the part of Father Horton selling real estate to Easterners. Between customers she p r a n c e d across the stage and sang a jingle of verses, the chorus of which ran like this:

"I was the first to sell the view of
the beautiful blue Pacific;
I was the first to prophesy of the
fortunes they'd make terrific;
I was the first to conceal the fact
that you had to delve and toil
To make the fabled rose to bloom
in this salubrious soil."

Rose culture has developed since then, until now our gardens are full of beautiful roses. But you must study their likes and dislikes, for roses are temperamental. If Sam McGrady just won't bloom, maybe he dislikes his neighbor or has a shortage of sunshine and air. Just move him to a new location and watch him burst into bloom. Of course we "delve and toil" in our gardens, or rather WORK; for work is what we LIKE to do. Toil and LABOR are what we don't like to do. Gardens are like life; you get out of them just what you put into them.

Marcella Darling.

PROGRESS OR WHAT?

I was greatly upset lately to read in the morning paper that a half mile line of 50-year-old eucalyptus trees along Gum Tree Lane in Fallbrook had been condemned by the County Supervisors, who abandoned the 10 foot strip on which the trees stood to the adjacent property owner, who wanted it for part of a new avocado grove.

"When roadside trees are in the way of progress, remove them," was the comment of one supervisor, whose name I charitably withhold; but I am almost certain that he must be blood brother to the official in Encinitas who some years ago condemned one of the most beautiful and majestic rows of eucalyptus trees in Southern California because the street "would look better paved all the way across."

My one small voice raised against the action of the supervisors could not possibly do anything to make them change their decision; but I was disappointed to think that the Floral Association did not take the opportunity to use its influence in saving the trees, and the County's reputation, by bringing the matter up at its meeting that same evening. If garden clubs aren't interested in that kind of conservation, of what kind of groups could we expect it?

—R. O. C.

Hattie Rumble-shucks

thinks that the glory of the "Jac" doesn't end with the falling flowers and that people "as is gardeners" will walk around the poor fallen debris with a prayer in their heart to the Lord and sheer thanks for such beauty . . . other people git a broom."

She tells us of a little known tree that, like the Jacaranda, litters another magic circle, but in July or August and "its red . . . blood red like a sunset that's floated down out of the sky and the flowers look like rubies there in the tree until they fall to lay this crimson spread."

And she wonders if anyone would like to know what it is . . . are you listenin?

HOUSE AND GARDEN for some inexplicable reason does not come to our exchange shelf; it has many a stimulating article for consideration by the proletariat as well as by the class to which it mainly caters. In the August issue: Forgotten Vegetables and as far as WE are concerned, Chenopodium may remain forgotten!) Well Kept Lawns for Gracious Living, Landscape Designs for Small Homes (one with a "meandering" fence) and Cultivating Wildflowers, which gives one a nostalgic pang for Wisconsin woods in the spring, but is not for us Californians.

Many thanks to Mrs. Clark for carrying on with the reviews last month in our absence. She makes the articles and magazines discussed sound so interesting that we can hardly wait to get down to the library to read them for ourselves. Our readers know, of course, that the Floral Association has a shelf in the Circulation Room of the main library with magazines for circulation. We bespeak your patronage.

Ida Louise Bryant.

WHO KNOWS

Whether, or does anyone read this magazine at all critically. It must be slipping or is it only the editor. At any rate be it known that an error was perpetrated on the back of the August issue and to date no correction or complaint has been received. The Palm portrayed there is not true to its label of Seaforthia . . . being Phoenix reclinata. This latter plant is an old-fashioned palm of great distinction and beauty that passed long ago through the fickle forms of fashion and remains now only as an exhibit here and there of what happens in time to the most favored individuals. Try to buy one. Normally growing in clumps of from three to seven stems, this slender, one-stemmed specimen can easily be and was mistaken as seen casually on the cut.

Arthur M. Shoven will lead a round-table discussion of vocations next meeting. Come prepared to take part with a question or an experience.

Gleanings from the Magazines

By Ida Louise Bryant

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL for July had an enlightening illustrated article from El Centro's Desert Magazine on the Agave, the Century Plant of the Southwest, also called Mescal or Maguey, with descriptions of the more common varieties. Here is your chance to identify that spiky plant you put in at the corner of your lot to keep boys from riding across the lawn on their bicycles, and that spread into such a huge pile of thick fleshy growth that it took an axe, two spading forks, a crow bar and the neighbor's red wheelbarrow to dispose of it. They are beautiful, stately things — the name means "noble"—in their natural habitat in the wide open spaces, or in roomy gardens in just the right spot, but a calamity in crowded quarters. Boy, page Hattie Rumble-shucks!

Also in the JOURNAL we find a contributor quoting amusing garden traditions held by the ancients. Democritus, a contemporary of Socrates and of whom we approve in general because his ethical system extolled good humor, a just disposition and tranquility of the soul, offered this rather curious aid to gardening: "For the extermination of caterpillars: a woman going with her hair loose, and barefooted, three times around each bed infested with caterpillars will kill them." Will it work on thrips, too, we eagerly ask?

GARDENERS' CHRONICLE (we beg your pardon, "America's foremost garden Magazine for 36 years," for inadvertently locating you in Massachusetts instead of Maryland in our July review) has in its August number an instructive article on species of the Amaryllis family, including, to our surprise, Zephyranthes or "fairy lilies." For aspiring delphinium growers there are directions for raising delphiniums from seed, with the promise that if directions are followed, spikes from 6 to 8 feet tall will be the reward. Fresh seed, bought from a delphinium specialist, is a necessity, we are told.

And speaking of delphinium experts, in "THE JOURNAL OF THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, new to us, for July, we find in his own words the story of Mr. Frank Reinelt and his evolution into a breeder of delphiniums and tuberous begonias. The little journal also contains five articles on Azaleas, and interesting notes from the Golden Gate Park Arboretum by the botanist in charge.

GOLDEN GARDENS for August sets the pattern for dilatory gardeners in an article called "Garden Appraisal" in which the writer, a woman, casts a cold and calculating eye over her garden and ruthlessly tears out what isn't worth its keep. How many of us do this systematically? How many more know that we should, but lack what it takes? Procrastination along this particular line is what keeps most of us from having better looking gardens. Our Miss Sessions had no compunctions on that score: "When you have something that's always sickly, never puts forth any good new growth, just sulks and won't do anything for you, don't bother with it—take it out, put something that WILL grow in its place."

"Rock Gardening" in the same issue, gives much valuable advice on plant material and practice.

In HOLLAND'S, the Magazine of the South, we read of awards being given each month by the Southern Institute for Town Service. The August awards were bestowed on three southern cities for a recreational program, for town planning, and street tree planting, respectively. In a statement by the director of the organization these words occur: "The buildings, streets, parks, laws and activities of a community are reflections of the taste, wholesomeness, unity and culture of the citizenship; and these physical things we see, these community activities we enjoy, have, in turn, their effect on the individual."

Do you ever, after an absence, try

to approach your home town with new eyes, looking at it with, let us say, the interested, all-seeing gaze of the civic minded Morrison Browns, visitors from one of the prettiest, tidiest little cities in New England? Or with the cool objectiviy of the Donald Wards, citizens from one of the exquisitely tailored North Shore suburbs of Chicago? And aren't there a lot of things we wish we could blot out of the picture? Those of us who have lived in San Diego for twenty years or more and remember it as a peaceful, leisurely little town, are appalled by the chaos and turmoil we find ourselves in, these days; our treasured Nolen Plan thrown to the winds, restrictions banished, vast industrial plants, huge housing projects moving in upon our quiet residential sections. Our only hope for the future is that in each organization interested in civic betterment there will be a few individuals who will keep their poise and sanity, and that with their help one day again we will find the rhythm of planned, orderly development.

In the Garden Queries in HOLLAND'S someone asks about a substitute for peat and other commercial humus. The garden expert who answers suggests pine needles or half-rotted hardwood leaves. We have read that rhododendrons and azalea species grow well in pine needles; we wonder whether they would do for gardenias? We're in doubt, too, as to whether our lovely Chinese elms could be classed as hardwood where using the leaves is concerned. We know that nothing approaches them for being rapacious feeders and drinkers, both, in a small garden; they should be willing to return something to the soil, but the leaves are interminably slow to disintegrate. One of our leading nurserymen tells us that while Swedish peat, every flake of which we deal out in miserly fashion from our little remaining store, is now unobtainable, Canadian peat is exactly as good.

The banana tree begins to bloom one and one-half to two years after being established. The fruit ripens quickly after blooming.

Problems of the Soil . . . .

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

BERMUDA GRASS

Question: If Bermuda grass is properly raked, mowed, and watered, would it make a satisfactory lawn for a service yard? If mixed with other grasses, what mixture would you recommend? Or, do you recommend not having any Bermuda at all? How about rye?

In making a new lawn, do you recommend the use of ordinary barnyard manure as a fertilizer? How should it be used? What other types of fertilizer are especially adapted to local gradening conditions? Is peat moss recommended as a final top dressing after seeding new lawns? C. B. R.

Answer: If given proper attention, Bermuda grass will make a very satisfactory lawn for a service yard except that during the winter it will become more or less brown and ragged. However, after becoming established it will take almost any amount of punishment. In order to provide a green lawn during the winter, where Bermuda is used, it is advisable to sow a nurse or filler grass with the Bermuda. For this purpose Redtop and Rye grass (Pacey's) are often used. When Bermuda grass seed is planted in the fall, some nurse or filler grass should be used also, as Bermuda will make very little winter growth. Sometimes Bur Clover, a winter growing annual is sowed with Bermuda. It not only furnishes a winter cover but collects and stores nitrogen in the soil as well.

* * *

LIPPIA GRASS

Question In re Lippia, is it possible to prevent it from becoming brown, ragged and neglected in appearance during certain seasons of the year? Does it thrive in San Diego? C.B.R.

Answer: Lippia thrives in San Diego. When well established it gets along with very little attention, but the tendency is to exaggerate that feature and neglect it entirely. It does, however, require less water than any other similar ground cover and will withstand both severe heat and cold. It requires little, if any fertilizer but a little water now and then should be applied throughout the summer and fall. When once properly established and given what small amount of care it needs, it should not look ragged and neglected in appearance. An occasional mowing, with the blades set high, will do much to counteract any tendency for it to become ragged in appearance.

* * *

CANE OR BAMBOO

Question: Will you kindly tell me what to use to kill cane roots; also can flowers be planted after the cane is destroyed? M.F.H.

Answer: Carbon bisulphide when injected into the soil will kill all plant life it comes in contact with. Use an ounce to every square foot or foot and a half, inject it three or four inches in the soil and then cover up with dirt. It will kill cane or other roots and not harm the soil permanently. Planting can be made in treated plots in from 10 days to 2 weeks after treatment. Carbon bisulphide is inflammable and explosive and should not come in contact with fire. Do not breathe its fumes deeply when applying.

* * *

SEASIDE HEDGES

Question: Can you suggest any plant that will make a thick hedge on a lot not far from the ocean? Want an evergreen, of course. B. J.

Answer: If in a location not too close to the water and where very strong winds are not the rule, Monterey cypress will do well. The same applies to Australian tea bush, although this plant can hardly be trained into a formal hedge shape. Salt bush (Atriplex brewerii) is used quite extensively in Ocean Beach for hedges, but it is not as fine a hedge plant as cypress. Another plant not ordinarily used for the hedges but well adapted for this

purpose, is the Natal Plum, Carissa grandiflora. When planted as a hedge it makes an almost impenetrable barrier. The foliage is dark green and leathery and the branches are heavily armed with strong two-pointed spines. This plant has a rather large, white flower and dark red fruits, maturing principally in the summer. The fruit is quite edible and is eaten fresh or used in salads and sauces. The Natal-Plum will thrive in a number of widely different situations as in the interior valleys and directly on the coast. Some of the largest and finest fruits of this shrub that the writer had knowledge of were grown on the government light house grounds on the lower tip of Point Loma, exposed to strong ocean winds.

* * *

PAPAYAS

Question: I have a papaya tree two and one-half years old and although it apparently flowers, no fruit is produced. What is wrong? Is there any use for the papaya in addition to its being served as fresh fruit? What are its medicinal properties, if any? S. B. T.

Answer. With certain rather rare exceptions, the papaya has a staminate or male form, and a pistillate or female form, the flowers being borne on separate plants. Seedlings may be either male or female and it is necessary to have both forms. If fruiting is to be assured, several plants should be grown in a group or near together. From a given quantity of seed, the larger proportion or possibly two-thirds, will be female and one-third male. Although under rather exceptional conditions as previously indicated, it is possible to obtain fruit from one plant alone, it is not common and you should immediately plant others for pollinating purposes. Occasionally fruits are matured on male trees, hanging on long pendant stems. The fruits matured on female trees are borne along the trunk in the axils of the leaves, on short stems.

Although used principally as a breakfast fruit in its natural state, there are other uses for it, accord-

(Continued on Page 9)

Roses in Late Summer . . . .

By N. S. Gardener

The rose, with its exquisite beauty of form, its color and its graceful fragrance, still holds undisputed sovereignty in the kingdom of flowers. During this season of the year, however, roses need special care and attention if their blooms are to continue to grace the garden.

Roses are apt to be arrested in their growth unless some provision is made to shield their roots from the hot sun, as none of them have wide-spreading, fibrous root systems to enable them to reach deeply into the soil. Peat moss, or better, steer or dairy manure, spread in a two-inch layer over the bed, will protect the roots, conserve soil moisture, prevent the soil baking, lessen the need for frequent cultivation, and tend to inhibit the growth of weeds.

With the close of the June flowering period, new branches should be trimmed back to the first strong bud (usually three or four leaves below the bloom) in order to increase the number of fall blooms. Naturally, all dead, diseased, or weakened branches should also be removed, as well as all dead blooms. The flowers should never be allowed to seed as that would place too great a strain on the vitality of the bush.

The first application of fertilizer, made when the shoots are three to four inches in length, should be followed, two months later, with a generous application of a commercial fertilizer specially compounded for roses. The food should be kept about six inches from the stems, and it should be lightly raked in so that it is evenly distributed and lightly incorporated in the soil. In regions where there is a long growing season and the winters are mild, it is good practice to repeat the dosage every two months.

Foliage plays a most important role in the production of healthy stems and profuse blooms. It must, therefore, be adequately sprayed to prevent insect attack or the establishment of such common fungous diseases as black spot and mildew. If the bushes are dusted with special dusting sulfur (as distinct from flowers of sulfur or ordinary powdered sulfur) in the early hours of morning while the dew is still on the plant, both diseases can be controlled.

Among the most prolific and harmful of pests found on roses all over the world are the plant lice, or aphis. These minute insects are equipped with sucking mouth-parts, and their feeding on young, succulent tissue, whether stems or foliage, quickly devitalizes the bushes. To wage a successful battle with these insect blitzkrieg artists, infested bushes should be thoroughly sprayed with nicotine sulphate (Black Leaf 40) mixed with soap flakes as a spreader. Great care should be exercised to cover the branches and foliage as it is only by direct contact with the spraying material that these omnivorous feeders can be exterminated. Then, if a reinfestation occurs, as is quite

(Continued on Page 9)

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Fortify Against Heat

(Continued from Page 2)

them more water, but I gather now that I was in error."

You cannot water just at the base of a plant and expect it to live very long, or if it does survive it will not gain its full size because the plant roots are limited to that area of soil kept moist. If given a chance, the roots will grow a surprising distance from the base of a plant. To know that roots of the lowly lettuce plant will grow six feet in depth from the crown makes it possible for one to believe that roots of some trees grow hundreds of feet. The University of California at Davis conducted experiments with lettuce on ground which had been "clean cultivated" for years prior to the time of the experiments. By digging a deep trench alongside the plant, roots, or rather rootlets of a lettuce plant were actually removed from the soil and found to be over six feet in length.

In arid and desert country, which classifies all of Southern California, one must train the root system of plants to grow deeply into the soil in order to fortify the top against heat. The root system of a plant, whether it be a carnation or an oak tree, can be trained by the method of irrigation. Deep irrigation by running water in a furrow over a long period of time, and then holding the water off for quite an interval, forces the roots to grow deeply, following the water. The surface may dry out four to six inches and kill any roots therein, but you do not necessarily desire surface rooting in a dry country. We have already found by experience that deep water is not dried out materially by wind and heat, so by drawing roots down into that deep area we strengthen our plants against wilting and burning even in days of great heat.

Deep penetration of water, then, is one means of conserving moisture. Surface mulching is another and this latter method should not be overlooked. The use of certain fertilizers, leaves, mulching paper,—compost, and similar material acts like a lid on a bucket of water, preventing direct evaporation.

A word about compost would not be amiss at this point because every garden has waste vegetation, weeds, prunings and lawn cuttings that are usually carried away or buried. These should not be thrown away, but put into a compost pile in a corner of the service area and watered from time to time. Cow fertilizer and even a little commercial fertilizer can be added to swell the size and cosmopolitan aspect of the pile. This compost material in a year's time will become the finest fertilizer and mulching material you can find.

Some plants, such as gardenias and camellias, are so definitely surface rooting that some such mulching material as this is absolutely necessary in an arid country. As a matter of fact, science, as it delves deeper into soil practices, is coming less and less to recommend this disturbance called cultivation.

This can all be summarized very briefly by stating that roots grow much farther laterally and much deeper than most people suspect, and one of the primary functions of roots is to grow to water wherever it may be found. Let the water run a long time in order that it may penetrate deeply into the soil where it can not be drawn up by wind and sun, but remains in storage for plant use. Roots growing into this storage are the gardener's guarantee of success, even in the most arid and hot country.

AUGUST MEETING

(Continued from Page 3)

terestingly related by Mr. Shoven who visited many Canadian cities—Montreal, Quebec, etc. He said the Canadians are great flower raisers. Mrs. Martin told of her trip over the Kit Carson route, emphasizing the beauty of fields of wild flowers, and the snow-plant, a scarlet miracle, in the Sierras. Mr. and Mrs. Carse while on a trip through Yosemite park were thrilled with the quantities of flowering dogwood and azaleas.

Mr. Silas Osborn's subject was the ideal late fall flower—Chrysanthemum—or mum. He is familiar with the wealth of new varieties of this flower as well as the old ones. He mentioned Mrs. Ed Lewis of Spring Valley, who is an inveterate gardener of Chrysanthemums. She has one of the largest collections, and it was from her he purchased his first forty or fifty varieties.

Chrysanthemums, he said, are different from other plants, and must be pushed—feed them—and don't grow them too early—may be planted in May to July—May is preferable. Cuttings give best success. Preparation of the ground should be given them as for sweet peas—it is most essential that there is phosphorous which means putting bonemeal and manure into the place prepared. Preparing the ground well will pay you, he said. For shows, the side shoots and terminals must be pinched.

Some of the varieties named by Mr. Osborn as his favorites—Columbus Dispatch and Sergeant

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Convenient time was given the audience for questions to which Mr. Osborn gave valuable information on his subject.

A generous donation of 'Spoonit' samples—The Easy To Use Fertilizer—were given to all members by Plantsmiths of Carmel, Calif.

A potted fern was given to the number holder at the close of the meeting, and all members were reminded to prepare for the Chrysanthemum show in October.

G. M. G.

THIS IS PROPAGANDA

(Continued from Page 3)

possibly, in the absence of a groove, contribute some special gift to a forward moving civilization. Yet it would seem we freer people might consciously give to the young at an early stage this vital, enlivening thing of the spirit which comes of contact with nature.

It is understood that these little verses and sketches are credulous. Have you ever played a game with a child? Do it again and here. Start some youngster right and if afterward you feel a graceless desire to make light of it, look to your arteries. . . . read and relax. The book is about animals and flowers, entitled "Who's Zoo in the Garden," by Charles Palmer and Jean-Marie Putnum, the sketches by Lynette Arouni, The Greystone Press, $1.50.

PROBLEMS OF THE SOIL

(Continued from Page 7)

ing to bulletins on the subject. It is sometimes served as a dessert sliced and eaten with sugar and whipped cream. Combined with lettuce and mayonnaise, the papaya makes an excellent salad. It is very good as a crystallized fruit and is sometimes made into pickles, marmalade, jelly, pie and sherbet. The green fruit may be boiled or baked and served as a vegetable much as is summer squash. Hawaiian cook books list many recipes for the use of papayas.

Medicinal properties of this fruit are largely in the milky juice which occurs most abundantly in the green fruit. Most of its medicinal qualities are due to an active principal known as "papain." It is, apparently, of considerable value in the treatment of dyspepsia. It is said that the digestive action of the enzyme has been long recognized in the tropics where it is not an uncommon practice to rub a slice of green juicy papaya on tough meat to make it tender. Another practice is to boil a piece of the green fruit with meat and still another to wrap the meat in crushed papaya leaves overnight preparatory to cooking it.

Roses in Late Summer

(Continued from Page 7)

likely, get the spray gun on the job again, for nicotine sulphate is sure death to these pests. Black Leaf 40 may be used in conjunction with arsenate of lead to control leaf-eating insects as well as aphis.

Rose chafers, those large grayish bugs, with lanky, ungainly looking legs and formidable snouts, are another serious pest as they actually eat large sections of the foliage. They can best be controlled by actually knocking them off the bushes into a small can of water covered with a light film of coal oil.

The care of roses is simplicity itself if right operations are carried out at the right time, and if strict attention is paid to their midsummer needs, they will fully repay the effort involved with a quantity of luxuriant blooms. Any serious grower of roses who followed Silas B. Osborn's classic treatment of diseases in recent issues may well take stock at this time. Did you follow through?

Hear Charley Adams in October. You will remember it.

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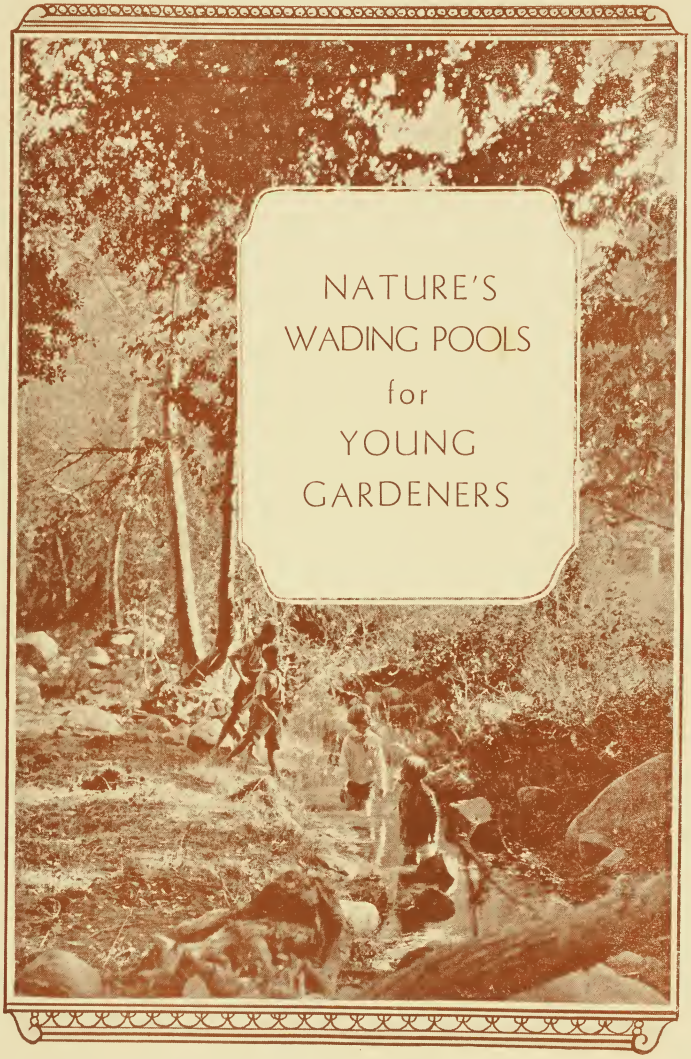
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